

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. New claims 13-20 have been added.

Amendments to the Specification and Claims

Minor changes have been made to the specification and pending claims to place them in better form for U.S. practice. These changes are set forth in the attached Substitute Specification. The Substitute Specification does not contain new matter.

A Comparison Version of the original specification showing the matter being added to and deleted from the specification is also submitted herewith.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to approve the Substitute Specification.

Embodiments of the Present Invention

As shown in Fig. 1, for example, a gas generator of the present invention includes: a pressurized medium accommodating chamber 14 charged with a pressurized medium, and provided with a first opening 10 formed in a first side thereof and a second opening 50 formed in a second side thereof; a first gas generating chamber 20 provided at the first side outside the pressurized medium accommodating chamber 14 and separated by a first rupturable plate 38 covering the first opening 10; a stationary member (or an annular support member in this embodiment) 35 provided immovably

with respect to the first combustion chamber 20 and directly supporting only a single moving body 34 facing the first rupturable plate 38, the single moving body adapted to be propelled by a product from the first gas generating chamber 10 to rupture the first rupturable plate 38; and a second gas generating chamber 40 located at the second side outside the pressurized medium accommodating chamber and separated by a second rupturable plate 51 covering the second opening 50, the second opening 50 being provided at a position deviated from a hitting portion of the single moving body 34.

As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the gas generator may include: a diffuser housing 30 provided between the first combustion chamber 20 and the gas generator housing 12; a supporting member 35 provided inside the diffuser housing 30 and having a cylinder portion 60 (or a combustion gas introducing pipe 75 as shown in Fig. 3) for allowing a gas generated inside the first combustion chamber 20 to flow towards the first opening 38, a diameter d of the cylinder portion 60 (75) increases as a distance to the gas generator housing 12 decreases; and a moving body 34 provided inside the cylinder portion 60 (75) and adapted to rupture the first rupturable plate 38 and enter into the pressurized medium accommodating chamber 14 when the gas generated inside the first combustion chamber 20 is introduced to the cylinder portion 60 (75).

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 19933551A1 (hereinafter, "DE '551"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

DE '551 discloses, in Figs. 1 and 2, a hybrid-type gas generator that includes: a circumferential wall 2 defining therein a gas chamber 2, and having an opening at each end thereof; a first discharge chamber 9 attached to the wall 2 and adapted to be in communication with the gas chamber 1 through one of the openings; a second charge chamber 23 attached to the wall 2 and adapted to be in communication with the gas chamber 1 through the other of opening; a sealing washer 19 for sealing the gas chamber 1 from the first discharge chamber 9; a diffuser housing provided between the first charge chamber 9 and the gas chamber 1; a guide 20 supported by a separating wall 13 that separates the first discharge chamber 9 from the diffuser housing; a cylinder section 16 slidably accommodated inside the guide 20; and a plug 17 attached to one end of the cylinder section 16.

In other words, the plug 17 is supported by the cylinder section 16 that moves with respect to the first discharge chamber. Therefore, in DE '551, the cylinder section is not "provided immovably with respect to the first combustion chamber and directly supporting only a single moving body." Accordingly, DE '551 does

not disclose or even suggest the "stationary member" as recited in claim 1.

Claims 2-12, variously dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

#### New Claims

New claims 13-20 have been added.

New independent claims 13 and 20 are allowable at least because although DE '551 shows, in Figs. 1 and 2, the cylinder section 16 having a cylindrical portion extending towards the gas chamber 1, and the plug attached to one end of the cylindrical portion, a diameter of the cylindrical portion is constant throughout its entire length, and does not increase "as a distance to the gas generator housing decreases." Accordingly, DE '551 does not disclose or even suggest the "supporting member" as recited in independent claims 13 and 20.

Claims 14-17, variously dependent on claim 13, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 13.

New independent claim 18 is allowable at least because although DE '551 shows, in Figs. 1 and 2, the plug 17 attached directly to the cylindrical section 16 that slides inside the guide 20, which, in turn, is attached to the separating wall 13 defining

an opening, the plug 17 is not "supported directly by the partition wall where the partition wall defines the gas ejecting port." Accordingly, DE '551 does not disclose or even suggest the "moving body" as recited in independent claim 18.

Claim 19, dependent on claim 18, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 18.

A favorable determination and allowance of these new claims is earnestly solicited.

#### Conclusion

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and objections, and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi (Reg. No. 40,417) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments:   Substitute Specification  
                  Comparison Version of Specification